

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 8 and 10-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6 and 8 are amended and claims 2-5, 7 and 9 are canceled. Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating that claims 2, 6 and 8 include allowable subject matter.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,383,970 to Asaba; and claims 1, 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over JP 2000-012465 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,746,548 to Boudreau et al.

As discussed above, Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating that claims 2, 6 and 8 include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, the allowable features of claims 2, 6 and 8 are incorporated into the independent claims. New Claims 10-15, depend from allowable independent claims. Accordingly, all of the claims 1, 6, 8 and 10-15 are in condition for allowance.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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